

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY GRANT APPLICATION			
Project Name: Charmlee Nature Center Preliminary Design		Amount of Request: Up to \$ 100,000 Total Project Cost: Up to \$ 100,000	
Applicant Name: City of Malibu		Amount of Match: In-Kind Staff Source of Match: City of Malibu	
Applicant Address: 23815 Stuart Ranch Road Malibu, CA 90265		Project Address: 2755 Encinal Canyon Road, Malibu	
		County	Senate District
		Los Angeles	23 rd Kuehl
			Assembly District 41 st Brownley
Phone: 310-456-2489 ext. 226 or 225 Fax: 310-456-2760		Email: jthorsen@ci.malibu.ca.us	
Grantee's Authorized Representative:			
Jim Thorsen, City Manager <i>Name and Title</i>		310-456-2489 @ 226 <i>Phone</i>	
Person with day-to-day responsibility for project:			
Bob Stallings, Parks and Recreation Director <i>Name and Title</i>		310-456-2489 @ 225 <i>Phone</i>	
Brief Scope of Work (60 words maximum): The City of Malibu requests up to \$100,000 to hire professional consultants to complete conceptual plans, survey project site topography, prepare initial environmental documents, develop a working construction budget, and secure other needed preliminary analysis required for the development of a 3,000-5,000 square foot nature center at Charmlee Wilderness Park.			
Funding Source Applied for: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy - Proposition 50			
<p>Project Background: Charmlee Wilderness Park (Charmlee) has been home to Chumash Indians, early Spanish rancheros and Malibu settlers and currently consists of rich natural resources and limited public amenities. Charmlee has large natural mountain spaces with outstanding scenic vistas. Its setting, high on a mountain bluff above the frequently foggy Malibu coast, provides visitors to Charmlee one of the few points in the Santa Monica Mountains where it is possible to view the Channel Islands, Palos Verdes, Point Dume with the surf beating against the shore at Zuma Beach, and the mountains rising to Boney Ridge and Sandstone Peak, all in one 360 degree panorama.</p> <p>Coastal sage and chaparral plant communities are blended with ancient shadowed Coast Live Oak and Scrub Oak woodlands, spacious grassland meadows and colorful sandstone rock formations and boulders. The nearly eight miles of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian riding trails are arranged in a series of outgoing loops from the temporary Charmlee Education Center, ranging in elevation from Charmlee's highest point of 1,450 foot to the meadow bottoms and the deeper draws of the riparian woodlands and provide spectacular ocean panoramas.</p> <p>The City of Malibu acquired Charmlee in 1999 from Los Angeles County. The 537-acre Charmlee Wilderness Park overlooks the coastal slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains.</p>			

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Charmlee has many unique features including one of the best live animal, reptile and insect displays in the Santa Monica Mountains, coastal sage and chaparral with ancient oak woodlands and over 300 flora species, fauna diversity (mountain lion, bobcat, ring-tailed cat, fox, badger, deer), over 200 avian species (quail, hawk, golden eagle, scrub jay, wren), threatened/endangered species (Santa Susanna Tarplant & Lindahls fairy shrimp), and sandstone rock formations.

The docents, operating in conjunction with the Malibu Parks and Recreation staff, provide leadership and lectures for a highly acclaimed wilderness education program using the coastal setting and a small temporary facility to bring the natural world to more than 2,300 students each year. The funding for a real museum and classrooms in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains will expand the curriculum and outreach programs for the only nature center on the coastal side of the range. Charmlee is easily accessible to more than 15 million southern California residents and millions of visitors to the Santa Monica National Recreation Area every year. Charmlee epitomizes the diversity of a natural, cultural and recreational experience.

In 2001, the City applied to the State Department of Park and Recreation for Proposition 12 funds for an environmental education nature center at Charmlee, however, the grant was not awarded. The project was only a few projects below the funding cutoff. In 2006, the voters approved Proposition 84, which includes at least \$100 million for nature center construction, equipment, and museum displays. The program will be managed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation but no date has been posted for application proposals. This should give the City six to twelve months to prepare a revised application to include elements that make it more competitive than the 2001 application.

The 2001 grant application used some preliminary designs that had been prepared by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, the former owners, in the late 1980s. These preliminary plans represented all that was available in 2001.

Project Description: The City intends to use the SMMC grant product to prepare a more competitive application for the Proposition 84 nature center program. The funds will be used for a more detailed and revised concept plan, initial environmental documents, topographical survey, fire department and American's with Disabilities compliance features, Phase I archeology and a more detailed working budget for the nature center. The design may include a small amphitheater, additional restrooms, permanent caretakers quarters, classrooms, meeting room(s), city staff and docent offices, and live and preserved animal displays. City staff will prepare a scope of work, circulate a request for proposals from qualified professionals, contract for and supervise the services needed in order to complete the grant tasks.

This also provides the City with an opportunity to explore proposals from Nature of Wildworks, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, to house their menagerie of Santa Monica Mountains live birds and animals that need a home. These animals are used in environmental education programs at Charmlee and other highly acclaimed programs for kids and adults.

The Proposition 84 grant program provides an opportunity that is uniquely suited to Charmlee Wilderness Park. The specific goals of the State program are to fund centers that showcase wildlife conservation and natural history showing the relationship of Native American cultures to the environment. There is extensive documentation that the lands at Charmlee were part of Malibu's Native American past. Additionally, the proposed nature center museum can provide space for the many artifacts that have been found at various sites in Malibu and are currently

being temporarily held on loan in other cities.

The nature center may make it possible to establish a permanent library of Native American resources including books, films and other media and making these resources available to the public and to foster relationships with other Native American cultural centers and programs to facilitate resource sharing and cooperation.

Project Need: Opening the natural world to inner city and local youth is a primary function at Charmlee and is facilitated by the volunteer docents. Each year children, teachers, and parent volunteers are bussed from Ventura and Los Angeles County schools. Mini-ecology lessons begin in front of a large mural painted by Malibu artists and school children that illustrates the energy cycle, food chain, and Chumash history and legends.

Children are broken up into small groups for hikes, each with a docent leader pausing in the oak woodlands to talk about the importance of the beautiful trees to the ecology of the chaparral and food source for animals. Sedimentary rocks and fossils help tell the geological story of the formation of the mountains millions of years ago. Docents bring out live animals representative of animals living in the Park.

A permanent and larger nature center may provide space for a full range of demonstration exhibits, panel boards and more cases for live and preserved species and generate new static exhibits, including new taxidermy displays of birds and animals; provide teaching aids, and displays for a new 'hands on' education area. The City has many frozen samples of the Charmlee world yet to find a viewable space.

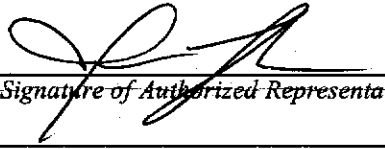
The new facility may allow additional docent training and enhancement of the current yearly fall formal training program, provide space for pre-hike nature lessons and post-hike review to strengthen the learning experience. It will also help support the local Plein Air art group's painting in Charmlee with display areas for the art generated.

Project Access: Charmlee is open to the public seven days a week generally from sunrise to sunset and is located in the Santa Monica Mountains within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Charmlee is easily accessed from Encinal Canyon or Decker Canyon Roads, major trans-mountain arteries, the Pacific Coast Highway or the Ventura Freeway and draws nature lovers from one of the largest urban areas in the United States.

The Charmlee Natural Preserve Foundation and the docents have been awarded funding from the Stauffer Foundation to provide financial aid for transportation for schools with inadequate budgets. The goal is to broaden inner-city access to the wilderness experience.

Charmlee Services and Programs: The City's Parks and Recreation Department provides a wide variety of school, family, scientific and artistic nature programs: Family and Adult weekend hikes, Full Moon hikes, New Moon Moth nights, Meteor Shower viewings, Summer Solstice Sunset socials, Artists' Hike and Paint workshops, Bird Identification and Bird Watching Hikes, Spring Wildflower Walks and other events.

Plein Air artists hike to remote scenic spots and paint from real life and atmosphere. Charmlee is one of their favorite locations. Some of these works of art and photography could find a home in the new museum space to show parts of the park not accessible to those with limited physical ability. The events are supported and cosponsored by city employees, volunteers, and the docents, together with over thirty other regional groups.

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date
1 Prepare Scope of Work, circulate RFP, contract for professional services	In-kind City staff services	August 30, 2007
2 Planning analysis, topo surveys		
3 Preliminary concept plans		
4 Initial environmental documents		
5 Develop project budget		
6 Phase I Archeology	Not to exceed \$100,000	May 30, 2008
Acquisition Projects: APN(s): Not Applicable Acreage:		
I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.		
		4/24/07
Signature of Authorized Representative		Date
Form SMM-001		
STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE RESOURCES AGENCY		